

4054746-012202

1. A circuit breaker switch comprising:
 - a rocker that is positionable between a first on position, and a second off position;
 - an actuator element that is coupled to the rocker such that it causes a first electrically conductive contact portion to move into contact with a second electrically conductive contact portion when said rocker is in the on position; and
 - a dielectric separator element that is urged between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions in the event of excess current being passed between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions.
2. The circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said switch further comprises a trip indicator that is coupled to said dielectric separator element such that said trip indicator provides a visual indication that said dielectric separator element has moved in the event of excess current being passed between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions.
3. The circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 2, wherein said switch may be reset by depressing said trip indicator.
4. The circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said actuator element causes the first electrically conductive contact portion to move into contact with the second electrically conductive portion by being forced between the first electrically conductive contact portion and an inner wall of a switch housing.
5. A circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dielectric separator element is urged between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions, at least in part, by

3 having the second electrically conductive contact portion move away from the first electrically
4 conductive contact portion in the event of excess current being passed between the first and second
5 electrically conductive contact portions.

1 6. A circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dielectric separator element is
2 urged between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions, at least in part, by a
3 bias spring that urges said dielectric separator element against the second electrically conductive
4 contact portion.

1 7. A circuit breaker switch comprising:

2 a rocker that is positionable between a first off position, and a second on position;

3 an actuator element that is coupled to the rocker such that it causes a first electrically
4 conductive contact portion to move in a first direction into contact with a second electrically
5 conductive contact portion when said rocker is in the on position, said second electrically
6 conductive contact portion being mounted on a bimetallic element and said second electrically
7 conductive portion being movable away from said first electrically conductive portion in said first
8 direction in the event of excess current being passed through said bimetallic element; and

9 a dielectric separator element that is urged between the first and second electrically
10 conductive contact portions in the event of excess current being passed through said bimetallic
11 element.

1 8. The circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 7, wherein said switch further comprises a
2 trip indicator that is coupled to said dielectric separator element such that said trip indicator

3 provides a visual indication that said dielectric separator element has moved in the event of excess
4 current being passed through said bimetallic element.

1 9. A circuit breaker switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dielectric separator element is
2 urged between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions, at least in part, by a
3 bias spring that urges said dielectric separator element against the second electrically conductive
4 contact portion.

1 10. A method of using a circuit breaker switch, said method comprising the steps of:
2 positioning a rocker to a first on position, causing a first electrically conductive portion to
3 move in a first direction into contact with a second electrically conductive portion;
4 overcharging said switch causing said second electrically conductive portion to move away
5 from said first electrically conductive portion in said first direction;
6 providing a dielectric insulator element to be positioned between said first and second
7 electrically conductive portions; and
8 providing a visual indication that the circuit breaker switch has been tripped.

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